

Center. Our distinguished former colleague in the Senate served in World War II as a second lieutenant in the Army's Tenth Mountain Division. His unit was sent to Italy where as a platoon leader on April 14, 1945, his platoon was attacked by German force, and while aiding a wounded soldier in his platoon, Lt. Dole was seriously injured by mortar fire. He recovered during a period of 3 years of hospitalization in Army and VA hospitals, surviving numerous surgeries and undergoing rehabilitation.

Bob Dole was awarded the Bronze Star for his heroism and selfless effort to aid a fellow soldier and two Purple Hearts for injuries he sustained. He was further awarded the European-African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with two Bronze Stars for participation in the Po Valley and Northern Apennines campaigns. Additionally Bob Dole is the recipient of the American Campaign Medal and World War II Victory Medal.

Following the war, Senator Dole entered a life of public service, culminating in his tenure as Senate majority leader. He has been a lifelong advocate for the disabled and was a leader in the passage of the Americans With Disabilities Act, a landmark piece of legislation that significantly expanded the rights of disabled individuals in all walks of life. Moreover, he has been a tireless champion of our Nation's veterans and has been instrumental in fostering the right to build a national World War II memorial on the Mall in Washington.

Given his commitment to the interest and causes of all veterans, it is entirely appropriate that the VA Medical and Regional Office Center in Wichita be named after former Senator Bob Dole. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to join in fully supporting this measure.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in very strong support of H.R. 4068, as amended, the Robert J. Dole Department of Veterans Affairs Medical and Regional Office Center.

Mr. Speaker, American history is filled with men and women who have made great sacrifices and performed great services on behalf of our Nation. It is one of the privileges that we in the House and Senate, the Congress, have to be able to recognize these individuals before our fellow countrymen and for all future generations. One such American worthy of honor is former soldier and Senator Bob Dole of Kansas.

Bob Dole was probably one of the best known World War II veterans. As a young officer in the famed Tenth Mountain Division, he was severely wounded during fighting in Italy and spent 3 years in Army and Veterans

Administration Hospitals recovering. He was permanently disabled with a shattered shoulder; yet by his personal courage and persistence, he overcame a boatload of crushing obstacles. He went on to become a national leader as a United States Senator, he was a presidential candidate, and a tireless advocate for veterans and the disabled.

So it is extremely fitting that in his home State of Kansas, the VA facility in Wichita be named the Robert J. Dole Department of Veterans Affairs Medical and Regional Office Center.

I would especially commend the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), who is the author of the bill, to honor Bob Dole. The gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is chairman, as we know, of the Subcommittee on Health of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs; and I am very proud to be a co-sponsor of this bill, which he has spoken about with great eloquence earlier.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my team.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4608, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to name the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical and Regional Office Center in Wichita, Kansas, as the 'Robert J. Dole Department of Veterans Affairs Medical and Regional Office Center'."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 4608, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

#### DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND BIO-TERRORISM PREVENTION ACT OF 2002

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the ordering of the yeas and nays on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3253, as amended, be vacated to the end that question be put de novo.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection the gentleman's request to vacate the yeas and nays on H.R. 3253 is granted and the Chair will put the question de novo.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3253, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the establishment within the Department of Veterans Affairs of improved emergency medical preparedness, research, and education programs to combat terrorism, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### AMVETS NATIONAL CHARTER DAY

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 314) recognizing the members of AMVETS for their service to the Nation and supporting the goals of AMVETS National Charter Day.

The Clerk read as follows:

#### H. CON. RES. 314

Whereas on July 23, 1947, AMVETS (American Veterans of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam) was chartered by the United States as a not-for-profit corporation;

Whereas membership in AMVETS is open to veterans who have honorably served, or are serving, in the Armed Forces, including the Coast Guard, National Guard, and Reserves, during or since World War II;

Whereas the veterans of the Armed Forces have made great sacrifices to ensure the peace and security of the United States;

Whereas the members of AMVETS are dedicated to providing important services to their local communities and to their fellow veterans;

Whereas the motto of AMVETS is "We fought together, now let's build together";

Whereas the members of AMVETS consistently honor that motto through countless hours of patriotic service, including providing services to hospitalized veterans, assisting veterans with their problems regarding housing and employment, marching in parades, participating in color guards and burial details, and educating the Nation's youth;

Whereas the war on terrorism has emphasized the sacrifices that veterans have made, and continue to make, for the benefit of the Nation;

Whereas AMVETS has designated July 23 as AMVETS National Charter Day; and

Whereas the goal of AMVETS National Charter Day is to raise public awareness regarding AMVETS's commitment and service to veterans, the families of veterans, and the Nation: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress recognizes the members of AMVETS (American Veterans of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam) for their service to the Nation and supports the goal of AMVETS National Charter Day.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) each will control 20 minutes.